

Rev. prp.

K-159

Belmont  
Near Massey  
1832

In 1832 Ebenezer Thomas Massey built a house on his farm for his son, B. H. Clinton Massey and his family. That house was a five bay long brick house, 2-1/2 stories tall with central stairhall and two flanking rooms on each story. A cellar was built of granite under the three northern bays.

The house was trimmed with millwork typical of the period, but details were added to the stair that make it stand out from others in the community. Its spandrel has four vertical panels. The balustrade is open string with two beaded-edge rectangular balusters per step. The step ends have delicate fretwork and the newel and intermediates are turned in a simple taper. A round walnut handrail rises above and is attached to the tops of the newels and continues to the third floor.

The configuration of the original kitchen is not documented but the present four bay long, two story kitchen covers an early window on the north gable of the main house, indicating that the original was either semi-attached or out the back.

Before moving to Philadelphia in 1870, B. H. Clinton Massey sold the farm to his brother Dr. C. H. B. Massey, who was living at Montebello in Georgetown.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Massey improved the Belmont farm with a new frame kitchen wing, including not only the present structure, but an 'L' out the back – like Montebello on a smaller scale. He is responsible for adding the dormer windows and for making other minor improvements before moving,

with his wife, Martha Oldham and their six children to Belmont where they remained for the rest of their lives.

In her diary, their oldest daughter, Susan Emily Massey, wife of P. M. Brooks wrote of her father:

INSERT

By the time Dr. Massey died in 1891, he owned six farms besides some property in the village of Massey and was able to leave a farm to each of his children. Belmont was to go to his youngest son, E. Thomas Massey, after the death of his wife.<sup>2</sup> The farm remained in the same family until 1996.

1. Diary of Susan Massey Brooks.
2. Wills, Lib. TRS 1, fol. 109.

K-159

Circa 1832

Belmont

Near Massey

Private

Located on the west side of the Massey-Sassafras Road north of Massey, Belmont is a c. 1832 gable-roofed brick house that is 2-1/2 storeys tall and has a later nineteenth-century two-storey frame wing at the north end. A rear frame section has been removed. The main section is five bays wide on the east, main facade and three bays wide in the rear. Belmont is one of several very similar substantial houses in the area that date from the same period. Most are five bays wide and brick, though one (White Plains, K-637) is frame. They share interior details that, if not identical, are very similar. According to Massey family tradition, Belmont was built in 1832 by a Massey. The date is consistent with the physical evidence. These second-quarter nineteenth-century houses reflect the return of agricultural prosperity to this basically high-quality farming area after a period of decline following the Revolutionary War. Especially with the rise of western Maryland and other western areas, markets had changed, and the soil had been neglected. Finally accepting the exhortations of proponents of "scientific farming," forward-thinking farmers began to put their precepts into practice, with resultant improvement in their fortunes. Most if not all of these new houses were dwellings to replace those that become considered too old and outmoded, too small, or had deteriorated. No new ground was broken architecturally with them, indicating a basic architectural conservatism in the area. They simply continued long-used forms and plans though with somewhat different interior trim from their earlier Federal counterparts. The farm has long been in the Massey family. According to E. Thomas Massey, Jr., who now owns the house, Massey's Adventure was the original family land grant, to Josiah Massey in the seventeenth century, and Belmont is built on part of it.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Belmont (preferred), Dr. C. H. B. Massey Farm

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number West side Rt. 299, 1.4 miles north of Massey ☐ not for publication

city, town Massey ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name E. Thomas Massey Jr.

street & number 6 Byford Court telephone no.: 778-0134

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 89

street & number Cross Street folio 150

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Site Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 11, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-159

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located on the west side of the Massey-Sassafras Road north of Massey, Belmont is a c. 1832 gable-roofed brick house that is 2-1/2 stories tall and has a later nineteenth-century two-story frame wing as the north end. A rear frame section has been removed. The main section is five bays wide on the east, main facade and three bays wide in the rear. The main-facade openings are evenly spaced, and first and second story openings align. The main entry, leading to central hall and stair, with one room on each side, is in the center bay. A handsome stair rises continuously from the first level to third. There are two dormers in the east roof slope, set over the inner side bays, to light the finished third level. A cellar is beneath part of the main section. The house has been modernized and altered to some extent in recent years. The brick section was built in a late Federal style.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-159

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Circa 1832

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Belmont is one of several very similar substantial houses in the area that date from the same period. Most are five bays wide and brick, though one (White Plains, K-637) is frame. They share interior details that, if not identical, are very similar. According to Massey family tradition, Belmont was built in 1832 by a Massey. The date is consistent with the physical evidence. These second-quarter nineteenth-century houses reflect the return of agricultural prosperity to this basically high-quality farming area after a period of decline following the Revolutionary War. Especially with the rise of western Maryland and other western areas, markets had changed, and the soil had become depleted. Finally accepting the exhortations of proponents of "scientific farming," forward-thinking farmers began to put their precepts into practice, with resultant improvement in their fortunes. Most if not all of these new houses were dwellings to replace those that become considered too old and outmoded, too small, or had deteriorated. No new ground was broken architecturally with them, indicating a basic architectural conservatism in the area. They simply continued long-used forms and plans though with somewhat different interior trim from their earlier Federal counterparts. The farm has long been in the Massey family. According to E. Thomas Massey, Jr., who now owns the house, Massey's Adventure was the original family land grant, to Josiah Massey in the seventeenth century and Belmont is built on part of it. The 1860 Martenet Map of Kent County shows the owner then to have been B. C. H. Massey. In 1877, according to the atlas of that year, the owner of this house and several others was Dr. C. H. B. Massey, a physician who did not practice but managed his farms instead. Belmont may have been his home farm.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-159

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

County Commissioners of Kent County

organization Historical Society of Kent County

date June 3, 1986

Court House

778-4600

street &amp; number Church Alley

telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

There are now no windows on the ends of the main section, except on the third level of the south end. There formerly was a window on the first storey of the north end, in the east bay, but it has been closed and bookshelves installed on the interior. There appears to have been no second-storey window above it. Other former north-end openings are unknown because of the presence of the wing. The wing is four bays wide on the east, front facade and three bays wide on the second storey of the rear, though at least the south bay area is altered, having been the point of connection with the now-gone rear frame wing that was perpendicular to the main section. Whether it was attached by a hyphen is not now known, but there evidently was a connection on both storeys. On the east side the end wing is set back 7'-6" from the main section, and it protrudes in the rear.

The main-section plan is central hall with one room each side on the first storey. On the second storey there is one room on each side of the hall but also a small room originally at the front of the hall; it is now a bathroom.

The brick of the main section is laid in 1-to-5 common bond, with one set of 1-to-6 seen. At least the main facade joints appear to be tooled, with a bead. It is difficult to be sure because of the application of whitewashing and/or white paint. There is no belt course nor a water table. The wing is now covered with horizontal, lapped, white aluminum siding with 8" exposure, as is the now-enclosed porch behind it.

A cellar is beneath the hall and north room of the main section. There is now a cellar entry underneath the central-hall stair, but this is relatively recent. The understair space was formerly a closet. There is also an exterior entrance, a long, modern tunnel arrangement under the screened porch that covers two of the rear bays of the main section. This entry is near the north-end corner. The cellar foundation is of cut but uncoursed granite (probably from Port Deposit) to just below ground level (about 55-57" above the cellar's dirt floor). Above is brick. The bricks are quite small (c. 8-1/8" x 2-1/8" x 4-1/4"±). There are medium red and laid with wide joints that are now sandy, or powdery. The bond appears to be 1-to-5 common. The south cellar wall, between cellar and crawl space, also shows some 1-to-3 bond. As was customary, the cellar area was whitewashed, probably well into the twentieth century. As was becoming increasing common, the joist framing changed direction under the hall. While the joists under the two side rooms run unsupported from front to rear wall, the short hall joists run the direction of the axis of the house, into the south brick wall on one side and into an end joist on the other, which is supported additionally by a single, center brick pier. The floor joists measure 9-1/2" x 9"±. The base for the north chimney is shallow. What appears to have been a round-headed opening has been bricked. A furnace flue now enters the chimney from the cellar. The fireplace hearth formerly in the dining room floor above has been removed and new framing and floor boards installed.

There is a chimney at each end of the main section, within the wall in the center. The north chimney is painted except for its three-course cap, which is of dark-red bricks. The south chimney is plain, with no cap, except  
(continued)



that three courses have been left unpainted so this chimney will resemble the other. This chimney may have been rebuilt, using a lighter brick.


The roofs are now covered with dark green asphalt shingles applied over wood shingles. The main section has a small boxed cornice. All details are now covered by white aluminum. The coverings' shapes, however, indicates the possible presence of a large crown and the existence of a bed molding. There are no returns on gable ends. The flush verge boards there are covered. Gutters appear quite recent. They are hung from the roof surface and braced to the cornice. The wing roof appears later. The cornice is boxed and somewhat deeper than the main section cornice, about 12-14". The end overhang is slightly less, about 10". There are large north-end returns, about 36-40". All details have been covered.

The pair of main facade dormers is above the inner side bays. They very likely were added after the original building date and the third level finished, though there is no clear evidence of this. These five-bay buildings from this period all seem to have been two-storey to begin with, even if a finished stair continued to the third level. The dormers are gable-roofed (pitch rather shallow) and covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice is small and boxed, there is little overhang. All details are covered with white aluminum. The windows are double-hung and with 6-over-6 lights. The cheeks are of aluminum siding. In a 1968 summary, Michael Bourne reported that the dormers "are similar to those of Godomar, its neighbor, with fluting below the corner blocks." Since the pilasters and window trim are covered, this is not apparent now.

The main section windows are double-hung; the third-level casements are now fixed. The casements are unusual for having two tall lights only. There are no wood lintels here. There are mill-finish aluminum storm windows-screens in place throughout the house. There appears to be only one original window remaining, on the second storey. Evidently the windows had become badly affected by termites, and it was deemed necessary to replace them. All double-hung windows are 6-over-6. In the rear there are large, plain wood lintels, also used at the rear hall door under the stair landing. The sills and trim are covered with aluminum. With the window replacement the lintels and sills were replaced also; the sills are now of brick headers. Original shutters appear to be at only one window. Each has 1-over-1 panels, the panels are recessed and slightly raised, molded with an ogee, and the panel raising is accomplished by an ogee. There is sliding hardware. Dogs or catches for this set of shutters are gone. The back side of the shutters could not be seen. Elsewhere there are black plastic louvered shutters screwed to the walls. Old rosette-type shutter dogs are in place. The old, heavy lintels are completely gone from the first-storey windows; on the second storey they are about 6" deep and with large (also c. 6") corner blocks with bullseyes. The sills under the aluminum would seem to be bold also. The treatment of the windows was a departure from earlier Federal work, which was more delicate and refined. These window treatments indicate the influence of the Greek Revival period.

(continued)

The stair in the central hall is open to the third storey. On the first storey its first run begins along the north hall wall, toward the west. It is half turn with two landings. It is open string and with pine treads. There are two painted rectangular balusters per tread, with two faces edge-beaded. There is a tread bed molding of a cove with fillets. The newel is simply turned above a 4-3/4" base. The rail is almost round, about 2-3/8" to 2-1/2" in diameter. It is continuous with the newel cap, which is round, with about a diameter of 4-3/8" and 2-1/2" thickness. The cap appears to be walnut, and the rail may be also. The rail is continuous to the third storey; it goosenecks over simple turned intermediates, which are now stripped of paint. They have plain, tapered, round shafts that appear to be pine. The balustrade is relatively low. In the spandrel there are four vertical panels that are recessed and slightly raised, with a small, simple trim. The intermediates have no drops. The step ends have lattice brackets.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Massey</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Rt. 299, 1.2 miles north of</u> <u>Massey, (west)</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Massey</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Thomas Massey</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>two and one half</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-159</u>	
		2. NAME <u>Belmont</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>c. 1832</u> STYLE <u>Federal</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>no</u>	
<p>Belmont was built on part of "Massey's Adventure", which was granted to Joshiah Massey by one of the Lords Baltimore in the 17th century. It is believed to have been built in 1832 by one of the members of the Massey family. The present structure like many brick houses in Kent county, is five bays long with center door, 2½ storys tall and has a four bay long, two story frame wing off the north gable. The exterior walls are painted white, the east facade being laid in Flemish bond and the others in common bond. All windows have 6/6 sash and those on the second story have applied wood lintels with corner blocks. Two dormers on the east facade are similar to those of Godomar, its neighbor, with fluting below the corner blocks. On the west side of the house the present owners have replaced an earlier wing with a screened porch.</p> <p>Inside, the house is divided into two rooms flanking the stair hall, plus the kitchen and den in the wing. In one of the rooms is a good slate victorian mantel with gold trim, dating from the 1880's, and matching drapery cornices. In the hall, the open stair is similar to Godomar but extends to the attic in the same well.</p> <p>The house is located on a large modern productive farm.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE		Endangered <u>no</u> Interior <u>good</u> Exterior <u>good</u>	
		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept. 11, 1968</u>	

Belmont was built on part of Mossey's Adventure, which was granted to Sosthiak Mossey by one of the Lords Baltimore in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. It is believed to have been built in 1832. The present structure, like many brick houses in Kent County, is 5 bays long with center door, 2 1/2 stories tall and has a 4 bay long 2 story frame wing off the North gable. The exterior walls are painted white, the east facade being laid: flint bond & the other: common bond. All windows have 6/8 sash and those on 2<sup>nd</sup> story have applied wood lintels with corner blocks. 2 dormers on the east facade are similar to those of Goddard, its neighbor, with ~~corner blocks~~ fluting below the corner blocks. On the west side of the house the present owners have replaced an earlier wing with a screened porch.

Inside, the house is divided into 2 <sup>flanking the</sup> rooms and stair hall, ~~and~~ plus the kitchen & den in the wing. One of the rooms is a good <sup>slate</sup> Victorian mantel with gold trim dating from the 1880's. Drapery cornices match the decoration of the mantel. In the hall, the open stair is similar to Goddard but extends to the attic.

The house is located on a large <sup>modest</sup> productive farm.

Name Belmont (or) Massey's Venture MHT# K-159for Matthew  
to MasseyLocation Kent Massey  
COUNTY townMd 299, 1.2 miles North of Massey (West)  
address or road#First owner of record Granted by Lord Baltimore to Josiah Massey DATE \_\_\_\_\_Present owner Thomas Massey DATE \_\_\_\_\_Address Massey, Md.

Parcel or Deed # \_\_\_\_\_

Original use dwellingPresent use dwelling

Md. Map Coordinates \_\_\_\_\_

Long. &amp; Lat. reading \_\_\_\_\_

Style FederalDate(s) of construction c. 1832 — (1842 lock)

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Builder \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2 Brick  
NUMBER of stories type wall constructionFoundation-basement brickWall construction- Brick - painted white - laid - Flem bond  
on East side - common on others

Water table, string course, other decorative work essential to walls

noChimneys on each gable

Name BelmontMHT# K-159Entrance type & placement center ~~entr~~

Windows 8 bays x 1 bay deep - 6/6 - upper window have  
<sup>wood</sup>  
 applied headers with corner blocks

Shutters \_\_\_\_\_

Roof type A

covering \_\_\_\_\_

Cornice, eaves wood

Dormers, cupolas 2 on East with fluted corner blocks +  
"A" roof + 6/6 sash - like Godomar, its neighbor.

Porches on West - screened porch

Wings, hyphens 2 story frame - 4 bays long, 1 deep  
has kitchen + den.

Interior:

Stairway open string, wide ~~total~~ bannister such to Godomar  
but later -

Doors \_\_\_\_\_

Trim \_\_\_\_\_

Other notable work good victorian fireplace + curtain cornice to match

Name Belmont MHT# K-159Physical condition goodEnvironment fair

## References:

MHT Color slide # \_\_\_\_\_

MHT B &amp; W # \_\_\_\_\_

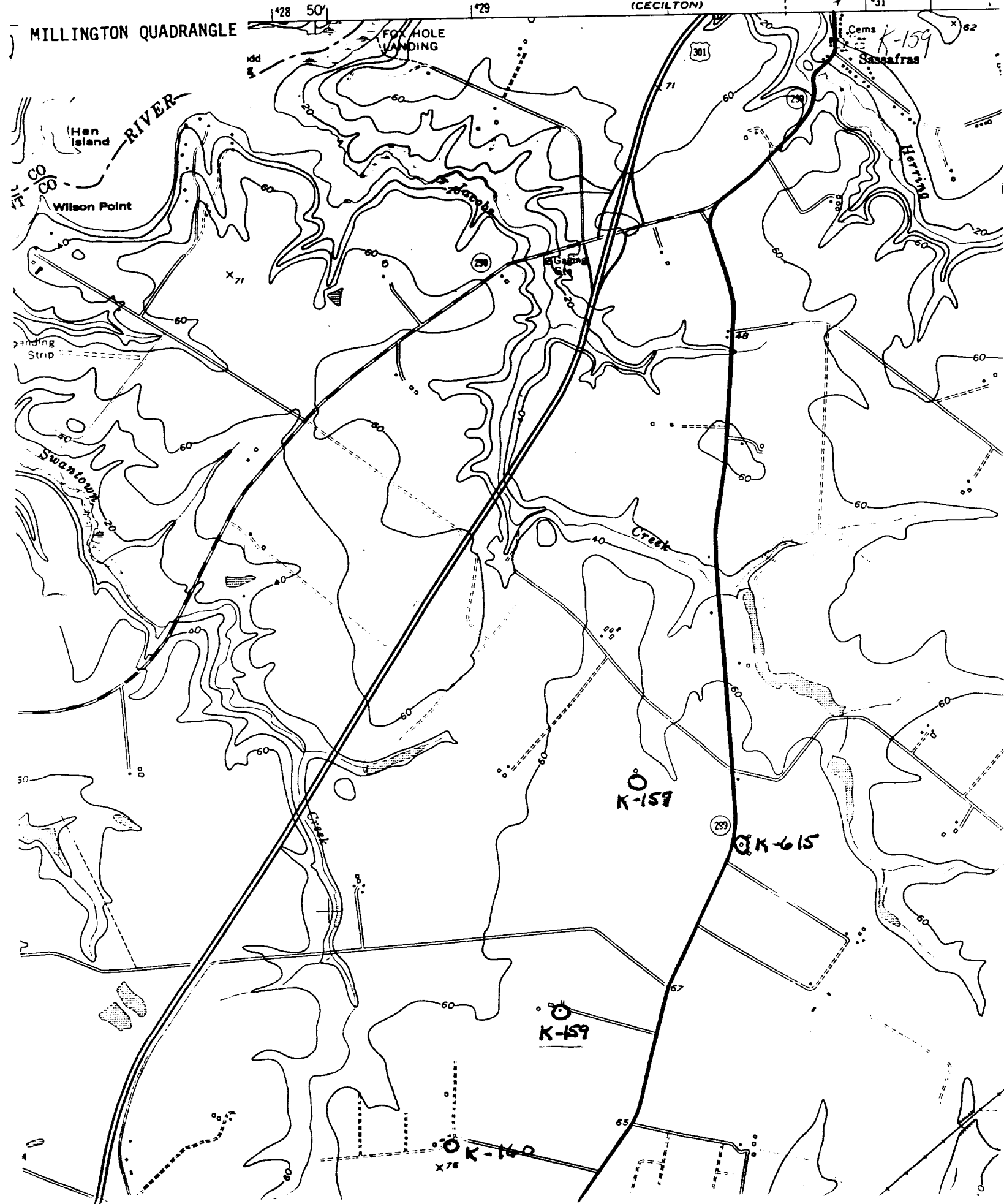
Owner contacted Mr + Mrs Massey

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder Michael BournDate Sept 11, 1968Summary: ~~Eliza~~ Massey - got 20,000 acres for But

Enclosures: e.g. Map, Historical significance, sketch of floor plan,  
and angle of photos, etc.

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE







K-159

Belmont

Rt. 299 near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/3/86

View to west

7000

#15

13159

**ENGLISH CATHOLIC TRUST**  
**LIBRARY**

K-159 Belmont C.1830



K-159

Belmont

Rt. 299 near Massey

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/3/86

View to northeast

K-159-13  
18 sec